

Dear ISMB members,

July 2013, I was awarded a travel grant from the ISMB during my participation to the Collagen Gordon Conference, which took place at the Colby Sawyer College in New London. I am a young investigator and my research has recently evolved to study the origin and the function of Collagen IV during drosophila development. As a new comer in the field of matrix biology (it was my first Collagen meeting!), I felt greatly honoured to receive this prize and wish to thank heartily the ISMB as well as the Collagen GRC organisers.

Even though my work was not yet published, I thought it was really important, at this point to discuss my results with the best specialists in the field. Based on the quality of the program and the speakers, I decided to attend both the GRS and the GRC and I immediately felt that the conference was going to meet my expectations. It was a very complete meeting covering a large panel of very exciting topics from fundamental to applied research and I appreciated as well that the tight schedule was nevertheless giving us spare time to discuss and socialize. The general atmosphere was really friendly and new participants were warmly welcome. Very importantly, I found the community particularly dynamic and always willing to discuss and exchange even unpublished results.

For me, it was a great opportunity to meet graduate students, post docs and leading scientists working on different aspects of Collagen biosynthesis and function. I learned a lot on different topics and also had a chance to discuss my results with people from different backgrounds, which was really inspiring. Finally, the conference also gave me the opportunity to establish a very promising collaboration.

I would like to strongly recommend the conference both to experience and young investigators and particularly acknowledge its caring and supportive spirit.

I am really looking forward to participating to the next Collagen conference and meeting all of you there!

Warmest regards, to all,

Véronique VAN DE BOR